

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

The invention relates to mixtures of mono-, di-, and tri-esters of hydroxycarboxylic acids and to a process for producing them. The hydroxycarboxylic acid is preferably citric acid. In the disclosed process, hydroxycarboxylic acids or salts thereof are reacted with a mixture of alcohols corresponding to general formulae (I)  $R^1\text{-OH}$  and (II)  $R^2\text{-(C}_2\text{H}_4\text{)}_n\text{-OH}$ , where  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  independently of one another represent a saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched  $C_{6-22}$  alkyl group and  $n$  is a number of 1 to 20, at temperatures of 120 to 180°C, wherein the compounds of formulae (I) and (II) are used in a ratio by weight of 10:1 to 1:10, and preferably in a ratio of 10:1 to 1:1.